

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2962

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 03285

FROM LOS DEL

H FOR SENATOR HUMPHREY FROM AMBASSADOR ELLIOT RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS - DEEP SEABED MINING LESISLATION (S.2053)

DEAR SENATOR HUMPHREY: I WAS PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO TALK
TO YOUR LEGISLATIVE AIDE TODAY ABOUT THE DEEP SEABED
MINING LEGISLATION (S.2053). BEFORE IT IS MARKED UP
BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TOMORROW, I WOULD
LIKE TO AMPLIFY MY VIEWS AND THOSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION
ON THIS LEGISLATION.

WHILE THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE
DID MAKE PROGRESS IN GENEVA, IT IS SIGHLY UNCERTAIN WHEN
OR WHETHER AN ACCEPTABLE TREATY WILL BE SIGNED. IT IS
CLEAR, IN ANY CASE, THAT SEVERAL YEARS WILL PASS AFTER
THE TREATY IS SIGNED BEFORE IT ENTERS INTO FORCE, AND
ADDITIONAL TIME WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
SEABED AUTHORITY TO PROMULGATE ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS
AND FINALLY APPROVE CONTRACTS.

IN THE MEANTIME, THERE IS A VERY REAL RISK THAT AMERICAN
OCEAN MINING COMPANIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN THEIR
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COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS UNDER THESE HIGHLY UNCERTAIN
CIRCUMSTANCES. IN MY JUDGMENT, MOREOVER, THE CERTAIN
PROSPECT OF DEEP SEA MINING WILL HELP TO STRENGTHEN THE
SPIRIT OF REALITY AND COMPROMISE WHICH HAS RECENTLY
CHARACTERIZED THE LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS.

ALTHOUGH IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THERE WILL BE SOME

ADVERSE REACTIONS AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE PENDING LEGISLATION, I AM CONVINCED NOT ONLY THAT IT IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST FOR S.2053 TO BE ENACTED INTO LAW AT THIS SESSION OF THE CONGRESS BUT THAT THIS WILL ALSO ADVANCE THE INTEREST OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY IN THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE FULFILLMENT OF THE COMMON HERITAGE.

AT THE SAME TIME, I MUST EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES TO A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO S.2053 THAT WE BELIEVE WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE BILL FROM THE STANDPOINT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. THE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEES MADE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BILL, BUT THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THAT THE FURTHER AMENDMENTS SET OUT IN MY TESTIMONY OF AUGUST 17 BEFORE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ARE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A SOUND SEABED MINING PROGRAM FOR THE UNITED STATES.

I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT YOU WILL AGREE THAT PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF S.2053 BY THE 95TH CONGRESS SERVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND THAT AS A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE YOU WILL LEND YOUR SUPPORT TO THIS END.

IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS I WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS THEM WITH YOU. I MAY BE REACHED IN NEW YORK AT THE
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FOLLOWING NUMBER: (212)826-5791.

WITH WARM REGARD, SINCERELY, ELLIOT.

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Message Attributes

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